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'NO DECISION' ON OAS HUMAN RIGHTS VISIT

PY162242Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1525 GMT 16 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Feb--The Foreign Ministry has stated, in answer to a question, that no decision has been made on an OAS Human Rights Commission request to open an investigation in Argentina. The Foreign Ministry indicated that the commission had contacted the Argentine Foreign Ministry and had taken the necessary steps to visit the country, but that a government decision was still pending.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also answered other questions, the first related to how freedom of worship might be affected by the government decision to reorganize the registry. It was said that this is a clear and exclusive administrative measure and that it cannot in any way affect the freedom of worship which our country has traditionally been concerned with maintaining.

Another question was what measures Argentina would take in light of the incident created by the French church. The spokesman said there was surprise in our country at the unprecedented attitude of the church hierarchy, which questioned a ceremony honoring Gen Jose de San Martin, an archetypical Argentine and American. He added that the Argentine Embassy in France strongly rejected the arguments of the church hierarchy in forbidding the ceremony.

Asked if our country would oppose a 1-month postponement of the trilateral Asuncion meeting, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said he had no information on such a proposal and that Argentina had not been consulted by Paraguay, the host country.

The spokesman said our Foreign Ministry believes that the meeting must be held as soon as possible, since the foreign ministers had agreed in Asuncion that it would be held in February. He had no information regarding a possible Videla-Geisel meeting or on the Malvinas Islands negotiations being held in Lima. The spokesman indicated that as of noon today, there had been no direct report on what was taking place in the Peruvian capital.

DETAILS ON FIRST ROUND OF TALKS WITH UK

PY161320Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0828 GMT 16 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Lima, Peru, 16 Feb--Sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands in particular and cooperation for economic development in the southwestern Atlantic in general were studied in this capital yesterday by representatives for Argentina and Great Britain. This new round of talks, which will continue until the day after tomorrow between the work groups, set up at the meeting held in New York in December last year, is considered as preliminary to an Argentine-British meeting on the highest level which may be held in May or June this year in a neutral capital, to be named by mutual agreement.

The Argentine commission, headed by Ambassador Raul Medina Munoz, director general of the Antarctic and Malvinas Department of the Foreign Ministry, and the British commission, headed by George Hall, assistant under secretary of state for foreign affairs, met at the Argentine Embassy in Lima.

The meeting began at 0930, and after 15 minutes the participants divided into the two planned work groups: an economic group and a technical group. The heads of the two delegations joined the latter group, which discussed the question of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands.

Both sessions ended shortly after noon, and it is believed that they will meet again today at the British Embassy. Yesterday afternoon the two commissions gathered at their respective embassies to discuss the progress of the talks.

The members of the Argentine mission, apart from Ambassador Medina Munoz, are Councillor Minister Juan Carlos Vignaud; secretaries Susana Ruiz Cerutti, Fernando Fernandez Escalant and Fernando Teson; and advisers Pedro Lesta and CDR Federico Jose Aragno. The names of the members of the British mission have not been published, although it has been learned that there are representatives from the Agriculture and Energy ministries among them, as well as high officials from the Buenos Aires and Santiago embassies.

OFFICIAL VOWS NO REDUCTION OF CULTIVATED AREAS

PY161333Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Feb 78 PY

[Text] The Argentine agriculture and livestock secretary [Mario Cadenas Madariaga] has stated that the speculation that Argentina will reduce the area of its cultivated lands is a lie. He said: This speculation is untrue. The Argentine position inside or outside international meetings is that it does not accept nor will it accept restrictions on cultivated areas. He stated that international talks, such as those which seek an agreement regarding wheat, are aimed at softening price fluctuations, not at restricting production.

During an interview with a local news medium, Cadenas Madariaga indicated that the 1977-78 harvest will reach 29 million tons, an amount which though being lower than the prior harvest, is second in rank over the last 30 years. He added: Obviously, we would have liked to have a larger 1977-78 harvest, but anyway, these are two consecutive agricultural years with important production yields. The two harvests were obtained when international prices were at the lowest level since post-war time, without (?negotiating) an increase in price or any type of subsidy.

He concluded: As agriculture secretary, I have not requested, nor will I request, any subsidy for agriculture, but I will definitively fight for just prices and an acceptance of the rules of the game, which constitute an opening for the economy.

BRIEFS

SUPPORT FOR BEAGLE DECISION--The Anticommunist Revolutionary Action (ARA) and the Movement for the Reaffirmation of Argentine Sovereignty [Movimiento pro Reafirmacion de la Soberania Argentina] have released declarations supporting the Argentine Government decision to reject the British arbitral decision on the Beagle Channel. [Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Feb 78 p 6 PY]

FRG LOAN--The national Port Administration will sign an agreement with an FRG Government enterprise tomorrow which offers a $15 million loan for the purchase of electric cranes. This loan is included in the bilateral trade agreement which was approved on 28 January 1977. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 16 Feb 78 PY]

DELEGATION TO VENEZUELA--The executive branch has appointed the Argentine delegation which will leave for Venezuela on 20 February 1978. The delegation will be presided over by Welfare Minister Julio Juan Bardi, and it will be made up of (Maximo Vazquez Gomez) and Capt (Angel Maria Rodriguez). This official visit, which will last until 24 February, is in answer to an invitation extended by the Venezuelan urban development minister. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 14 Feb 78 PY]

DELEGATION TO ANTARCTIC--A military delegation will leave today for Puerto Esperanza, the Argentine Antarctic, to represent Army Commander in Chief Jorge Rafael Videla at two religious ceremonies: one of the baptism of the first child born in Puerto Esperanza, and the other of the first marriage to be celebrated there. This delegation will also represent General Videla at the inauguration of the Sargento Cabral Military Post and at the implementation of a delegation from the Army Information Center [Circulo de Exposiciones del Ejercito] which will be the first entity with legal status in the Antartic. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY]

ARGENTINE MARITIME LINE DIRECTOR--Rear Adm (Manuel Garcia Tallada) has been appointed new president of the Argentine Maritime Line Board. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY]

ECONOMY OFFICIAL RESIGNS--The executive branch has accepted the resignation submitted by Edmundo Sangenis, under secretary of international economic negotiations. He has been appointed cabinet adviser to the Commerce Secretariat. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 16 Feb 78 PY]

ELMA PRESIDENT RESIGNS--Buenos Aires, 9 Feb--Rear Adm Pablo F. Belaustegui (Ret), president of the Board of Argentine Shipping Lines, has resigned for personal reasons. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0620 GMT 9 Feb 78 PY]

NAVY MATERIAL DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR--Vice Adm (Gabriel Nuncio Oliva) has assumed duties as new director of the Navy Material Department. He replaces Vice Adm (Carlos Tomlaski). [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY]

NEW NAVY STAFF MEMBER--Capt (Amauri Ricardo) assumed duties today as secretary general of the navy chief of staff. He replaces Capt (Alberto Cesar Bardi), who recently assumed command of the destroyer "Hercules." [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY]

PEASANT CONFEDERATION BACKS PEREDA ASBUN FOR PRESIDENT

PY160220Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY

[Text] The leaders of the Bolivian National Peasant Workers Confederation [CNTCB], which supports the official candidate, expressed their support for Gen Pereda Asbun today and criticized the Bolivian Socialist Falange, which has just withdrawn its support from the military candidate.

The Peasant Confederation, loyal to the current goverrment, stated in an extensive document that Gen Juan Pereda Asbun is a real candidate of the peasants becuase he not only represent the peasants but has clearly identified himself with them.

General Pereda Asbun, in a private meeting with leaders of the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB], told them his intention of discussing with the peasants the problem of the vice presidency requested by the FSB, and since the meeting between the FSB and General Pereda Asbun did not end in an agreement, apparently because the general did not want to accept their government participation demands, this political group withdrew its support.

The peasant leaders of the group headed by Oscar Cespedes proposed that the vice presidency of the official candidate be filled by a peasant leader, but this apparently has not yet been decided. The CNTCB said that General Pereda's major actions are not motivated by a desire to hand out public posts, positions as deputies and executives, or benefits, but to give Bolivia alternatives.

In the document, the peasant leaders ratified their decision to continue their support for General Pereda Asbun's candidacy in the coming elections.

PEASANT LEADER DECLINES VICE PRESIDENCY

PY160221Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Peasant leader Oscar Cespedes Sotomayor has refused to become a candidate for vice president in the coming general elections. During an interview with Cruz del Sur, Cespedes, who is a leader of the Bolivian National Peasant Workers Confederation, said that he will not be a candidate for the vice presidency.

Asked why, the peasant leader said that the vice presidency needs men who are aware of their ability. According to officials of the confederation, Cespedes was to be nominated vice president to run with Gen Juan Pereda Asbun.

OPPOSITION MAY NOMINATE GENERAL FOR PRESIDENT

PY161919Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1707 GMT 16 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpt] La Paz, 16 Feb--It was reported here today that the upcoming 9 July general elections in Bolivia may be an "intermilitary" affair with two generals as the principal candidates. Gen Juan Pereda has been proclaimed government candidate in the coming elections, while an alliance of social democratic parties is proposing Rene Bernal, former defense minister under President Hugo Banzer, as a possible candidate for the presidency.

The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] is proposing retired General Bernal, who is an active member of the party, as its presidential candidate. It is asserted within the PDC that Bernal enjoys great prestige among the armed forces. He is a native of Oruro, an important mining and metal industry center.

The press today reports on Bernal's candidacy, stating that the opposition is seeking a consensus to firmly proclaim its new candidate.

Former President Hernan Siles Zuazo, however, continues to occupy the first place as leader of the political opposition in the upcoming elections. Siles Zuazo has not yet returned to the country.

LABOR LEADER DISCUSSES UNION REORGANIZATION

FY160331Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Feb 78 FY

[Text] The Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia [FSTMB] has indicated that management indifference is the reason why the process for union reorganization has not begun within the private mining sector, according to Simon Reyes, FSTMB public relations secretary. Even so, states Reyes, the process for union reorganization is in good progress, and it will be completed after the National Mining Congress is summoned and held. Simon Reyes tells us about the issue:

[Reyes--begin recording] This is really the main task which the Mineworkers Federation is facing--the union reorganization. As everyone knows, the unions were not in force and were operating through coordinators; now, with the provisions [which have been] issued, we are working on the reorganization of all the unions in private and state mining. We are also struggling with many difficulties, but we believe we will overcome that situation, since in some districts such as Huanuni, which [illegible] has been carried out and a union director is available. Next Sunday elections will be held in (?Chiripico). In (?Colani) elections were also held, and in the near future, there will be elections in Catavi and Siglo Veinte, since more [passage indistinct]. Summarizing, we can say that elections are the main part of the process, and I believe that we have to overcome all the difficulties, interferences and threatened which we are facing at different places and which are aimed at hindering free elections [illegible] workers to organize their unions. [end recording]

According to Reyes, he is one of a number of mining leaders who were driven in the last mineral congress held in Potosi, and he went underground where he was permanently repressive organizations. In the interview which Reyes held a few weeks ago with Juan, this leader said that the economic issue has not been considered directly [illegible] the Mineworkers Federation level, but rather other, more urgent matters which necessitate attention of their leaders, such as the reemployment of fired workers and the reorganization. Is it so, Mr Reyes?

[Reyes--begin recording] We have not really touched on any immediate [illegible] relative. I regret that the union reorganization must be [illegible] different details. Such economic problems will [illegible] the economic situation of workers, of all workers in the country, [illegible] people who work and are constrained by fixed salaries, who are experiencing a difficult situation. There is devaluation, and the prices of staples go up and up [illegible]. Without a doubt this must be discussed. But at this time, our main [illegible] reorganization. The other points will probably be discussed [illegible] themselves.

[Reporter] At the last miners congress you proposed a certain percentage of increase in salaries. The state mining enterprise responded with an increase. Has the economic situation of miners partially been solved through this?

[Reyes] Well, at that moment I was not aware of those problems and I was even away from the country, but I was informed that not even the salary adjustment [racionalizacion economica] granted by the government was enough to meet the workers' needs, that even at that time they were discontented. It must be worse now because the situation has become more serious for workers. All these points will be discussed in the next congress, although we think they cannot be (?changed). But we will definitively reassert the urgency of the needs. At this time, however, we must define [words indistinct] to reorganize the unions.

BRIEFS

ARCHBISHOP ACCUSED--La Paz Archbishop Msgr Jorge Manrique is mainly responsible for the infiltration of communism into the Bolivian church, Rafael Rodriguez, secretary general of the Latin American Anticommunist Confederation [CAL], told a press conference yesterday. He explained that CAL is a large confederation of civilian and political organizations which now has 23 branches, among them one in Bolivia. Rodriguez is making his first tour of the year through Mexico, Central America and the Southern Cone and will later tour the North. [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 7 Feb 78 p 3 PY]

DATE FOR VOTE COUNTING--La Paz, 10 Feb--The electoral court must submit the final result of the general elections scheduled for 9 July 1978 in Bolivia by 31 July 1978, the government decided today. The inauguration is scheduled for 6 August 1978. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1618 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY]

1977 TIN PRODUCTION--La Paz, 10 Feb--The Bolivian State Mining Enterprise produced 23,000 metric tons of tin during 1977, according to an official report. Estimated production for 1978 is 24,000 metric tons. Seventy-eight percent of the tin is state produced in Bolivia, which is the second tin producer in the world after Malaysia. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1515 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY]

NEW PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER--La Paz, 10 Feb--Col Humberto Cayoja, Bolivian military attache in Chile, has been appointed chief adviser to president Hugo Banzer. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1619 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY]

NEW HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE--The Bolivian Human Rights Permanent Assembly has created a human rights departmental committee in Santa Cruz, the largest center of political support for President Hugo Banzer, where human rights campaigns have been very difficult to carry out. [La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 13 Feb 78 PY]

VENEZUELAN-BOLIVIAN ENTERPRISES--Venezuela is interested in establishing binational enterprises with Bolivian capital. Venezuelan Ambassador Luis Echeverria, who presented his credentials to President Banzer yesterday, said that his government hopes that bilateral relations become friendlier and more cordial. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1450 GMT 14 Feb 78 PY]

MATERIALS ON VISIT BY PARAGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Nogues Interviewed on Visit

PY1614101 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Feb 78 p 7 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues yesterday stated that he considers "the policy being adopted by his country's government--that is, trying to get the greatest advantages possible from Brazil and Argentina" in the two most important Parana River hydroelectric projects, Itaipu and Corpus, in which it takes part--to be natural.

"I don't know if it is a sin to seek advantages for a legitimate position. Paraguay will try to defend its best interests, just as Brazil and Argentina will," answered the foreign minister when a reporter asked him if Paraguay will continue to exercise its policy of securing the most advantages from Brazil and Argentina.

In an interview granted at Brasilia's civil airport after his arrival at 1100, the Paraguayan foreign minister revealed that he will "probably" visit Argentina before the next tripartite meeting, which will be held at the end of this month or the beginning of the next. Questioned whether his visit to Buenos Aires will be part of Paraguay's "pendular" policy, sometimes favoring Brazil and sometimes favoring Argentina, Foreign Minister Nogues showed no signs of irritation. On the contrary, he gave the following response with great ease and a slight smile:

"Let us forget the pendulum. I come to Brasilia as I can also go to La Paz, Lima or Buenos Aires. I have a visit pending with (Argentina's) Foreign Minister Oscar Montes."

A reporter asked, "But will the minister travel to Buenos Aires before the tripartite meeting?"

"Probably," answered Nogues.

Minister Nogues disagreed with a reporter's opinion calling his visit to Brazil "surprising."

Nogues said: "I don't believe it is surprising because Silveira and myself agreed that we would meet in Brasilia or Asuncion whenever there was a need to talk. This is a normal way of communicating between ourselves, but without underestimating the capacity of our ambassadors. There has been a cycle of periodic visits and my trip to Brasilia once again demonstrates the state of our relations, which are excellent. This is our first ambition. Paraguay and Brazil are in a satisfactory stage of bilateral relations and full of hopes."

When asked to define the reason for his trip, the Paraguayan foreign minister said he had come to "discuss matters of common interest and the upcoming tripartite meeting." He added:

"I also came to sign some rather important protocols: one to exchange notes concerning the sovereignty of the islands in the Paraguay River, and one on cooperation between Brazil and Paraguay in the use of communications satellites."

Reports that the Paraguayan Government had decided to accept the construction of the Corpus hydroelectric plant with a height of 105 meters were not confirmed by Foreign Minister Nogues. In answer to a question concerning this, Nogues said, "there are technical facts already endorsed by Brazil and Paraguay regarding Itaipu's quota which will be decided during the next tripartite meeting."

Nogues affirmed that Paraguay is "Brazil's partner in the Itaipu hydroelectric project, and that it could be Argentina's partner in the construction of the Corpus hydroelectric plant." Asked about the possibility of an exchange of interests regarding the construction of the Monday hydroelectric plant on Paraguayan soil and a larger quota from Corpus--a joint Paraguayan-Argentine undertaking--Nogues said that this "is a technical issue for the future."

A journalist asked, "WHAT ARE THE MINISTER'S HOPES FOR THE UPCOMING TRIPARTITE MEETING?"

Nogues answered: "I believe it will be of a decisive character."

With regard to the agreements concerning the meeting's data, the Paraguayan foreign minister said that his country is interested in any data. Asked if his country will create some dispute with Brazil during the meeting, Nogues answered:

"We agree with Brazil, but we also want to agree with Argentina. There is nothing that cannot be reached through understanding."

Finally, a reporter asked the foreign minister if Paraguay will negotiate the exploitation of its interior rivers during the tripartite meeting. Nogues said that "Paraguay wants to get the most advantage out of its interior rivers."

Nogues concluded: "This is an important issue which we will present during the tripartite meeting. I hope Brazil and Argentina understand us."

Asks Aid on Monday Dam

PY1614202Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1212 GMT 16 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 16 Feb--Last night the Brazilian foreign minister admitted to newsmen, in the presence of Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues, that Paraguay has persisted in its proposal for the building of a hydroelectric central in the Monday River with Brazilian aid. The Paraguayan minister arrived in Brasilia on Tuesday after a sudden request for a meeting, apparently to ratify an agreement about the sovereignty over 67 islands in the Paraguay River border region. Among newsmen it was strongly believed, however, that the reason for the trip was the question of the Monday River dam in Paraguayan territory.

This is a long-standing project, and the dam in the Monday River (a tributary of the Parana River) would in due time permit the release of the water volume which would make up for the retention necessary to fill the Itaipu dam in the Parana River. [sentence as received]

After the Brazilian-Paraguayan disagreements over the Itaipu power frequency, Brazil made veiled threats of desisting from financing the Monday project and instead--when the Itaipu dam is operational--relying on dams owned by Brazil in the Iguazu River, another tributary of the Parana River.

The frankness with which Minister da Silveira admitted that there was a new Paraguayan proposal regarding the Monday rather startled the Paraguayan foreign minister, who until then had left the newsmen in the dark. Azeredo da Silveira said no decision has yet been reached regarding the Monday, but he stated that the Brazilian Government will always try "to find the most constructive solutions, not only for Itaipu but for all the other projects in cooperation with Paraguay."

Azeredo da Silveira denied that Paraguay had made the building of the Monday dam a condition for its support for an overflow height at the Corpus dam which would be more favorable for Brazil.

The Brazilian foreign minister also explained that he did not arrive at a precise conclusion with Nogues regarding the overflow height to be proposed for Corpus (an Argentine-Paraguayan project) in order to coordinate it with Itaipu (under construction by Brazil and Paraguay).

Before the Paraguayan foreign minister's departure, Da Silveira and Nogues today installed the General Brazilian-Paraguayan Cooperation and Coordination Commission, which was created in 1975 and which will work according to the system of similar organizations maintained by Brazil with Japan, France, Great Britain, the FRG and Bolivia for the discussion of matters of common interest.

More on Monday Dam

PY162342Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRAZIL in Portuguese 15 Feb 78 p 19 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--A month before the trilateral Argentine-Brazilian-Paraguayan meeting to decide the heights, and consequently the output, of Corpus and Itaipu, Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues came to ask that a dam be built on the Monday River. As he arrived, he officially stated that Paraguay only intends "to make the best use of its internal rivers."

After a 40-minute meeting with President Geisel, Nogues began talks with Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira and reportedly asked that Brazil begin to supply electrical energy to Paraguay through the Parana State Electricity Company [COPEL]. Requested 10 days ago and kept secret because of the presidential elections in Paraguay, the unexpected visit reactivates relations which had become lukewarm since Brazil unilaterally decided to adopt dual frequency current for Itaipu, a decision taken to stop further concessions to Paraguay.

The request by Paraguay yesterday has something to do with the country's internal politics. The Acaray River, Parana River tributary where the only two Paraguayan hydroelectric plants are located, has such a low water level that only the 90,000-kw plant is operating. The 100,000-kw plant is shut down. The Monday River dam would provide additional water for the Acaray plants and in turn would receive water from the Itaipu dam through the Hernandarias Canal.

Because of the shutdown of the hydroelectric plant due to the Acaray water level during the last 2 year, President Stroessner backed away from his decision to appoint Enzo Debernardi--current president of ANDE [National Electricity Administration]--as energy minister, a post which was to be created for him. Debernardi has to shoulder the responsibility for failure of the second Acaray plant, which was built on the basis of faulty technical calculations.

The president of ANDE, an intelligent man and a shrewd negotiator, is now exercising his influence to have Brazil build the Monday dam. This reservoir would be connected with the Acaray River and the idle plant could then go into operation--which would restore Debernardi's prestige with Stroessner.

Yesterday the Paraguayans demanded that Brazil build the Monday dam and its connecting canal with the Acaray if they are to withdraw their support for construction of a high-level Corpus. The Paraguayans pointedly told the Brazilians that if Brazil does not build the Monday dam and the connecting canal and meet other minor demands, the Stroessner government will support construction of a 105-meter-high dam at Corpus, making the river back up to a height of 109.5-110 meters [figures as published] at the Brazilian border. Brazil cannot accept this. If its demands are fulfilled, Paraguay will agree to build Corpus--the joint project with Argentina--with a 101.5-meter dam which will cause a 105-meter backup effect at the Brazilian border. [figures as published] And this is acceptable to Brazil, provided reasonable flexibility is allowed for Itaipu's operation.

It will be very difficult, however, for Brazil to agree to build the Monday River dam and the Monday-Acaray connection canal. A compromise may be reached by offering to finance construction of the Monday dam and to defray some additional expenditures. Also, the Monday dam would serve to fill the Itaipu dam [as published], another alternative could be to use the Brazilian dams on the Iguacu River--Foz do Areia, Salto Santiago and Salto Osorio--and find a compensatory formula which took into account the energy lost to those three hydroelectric plants during the high water season in relation to the final cost of the Monday dam, with Brazil paying the difference to Paraguay.

[Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish at 2117 on 15 February, 1978, says that two Brazilian papers--JORNAL DO BRASIL and FOLHA DE SAO PAULO--simultaneously published accounts of the Silveira-Vasques talk, and one journalist told LATIN that he had a tape recording of the talks.]

DEMANDS IN FISHING TALKS WITH U.S. DETAILED

FY1702311Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 16 Feb 78 p 9 FY

[Text] Brasilia--Itamaraty concluded yesterday the technical talks held with the Government of Barbados aimed at signing a new fishing accord in the 200-mile territorial sea. Today, it will start similar negotiations with a 12-person U.S. delegation which arrived today in Brasilia headed by Thomas Clingan, Jr, the State Department's leading official in this area.

Pursuant to the negotiations held with the ambassador from Trinidad and Tobago 3 weeks ago and recently with J. Reed, the representative of Barbados, the Brazilian Government will now present to the United States its new conditions for signing fishing accords.

From now on, foreigners can only participate in fishing activities through a system of association with Brazilian enterprises on the basis of "joint ventures." In all cases, ships will have to sail under the national flag, and all temporary fishing licenses granted to foreigners on the basis of bilateral accords are definitely canceled.

The new type of standard accord which is now being negotiated by Itamaraty is much broader than previous ones.

It is no longer restricted to the shrimp fishing, it requires that joint enterprises be established on the bases of 51 percent of national capital, demands use of the Brazilian flag by all ships, and that composition of crews be well balanced, that is, with crewmen from both countries. Furthermore, it establishes rigorous technical requirements to prevent water pollution. Another innovation is the ivision of the fish collected, the Brazilian share being earmarked for export.

UPDATE GIVEN ON PROGRESS OF ANGRA NUCLEAR PLANTS

PY161348Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 15 Feb 78 p 19 PY

[Excerpt] The new president of Furnas electric company, Licinio Marcelo Seabra, who is replacing Luiz Claudio Magalhaes, reported that the nuclear plant Angra I "will start operation by mid-1979", that is, with a delay of about 6 months in the original timetable for December 1978, the date set before the equipment stored by the plant was destroyed in a fire which broke out at a warehouse on 31 October 1977.

Seabra also said that Angra II and Angra III will be delayed by 6 to 8 months, respectively, due to technical problems in the ground where foundations for the two plants are to be built. Therefore, these plants will go into operation in 1984 and 1985, respectively. Seabra then added that this does not mean that there will be problems with the supply of energy, since some reduction in energy consumption is expected for 1981 and 1983, and that the Itumbiara and Itaipu hydroelectric plants will go into operation in 1980 and 1983, respectively.

CONSTRUCTION OF ENRICHMENT PLANT TO BEGIN

PY170128Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Feb 78 p 7 PY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--In the next few days the Brazilian Nuclear Corporation [NUCLEBRAS] will start construction of its uranium enrichment plant in Resende, a municipal district of Rio de Janeiro State located between the localities of Itatiaia and Engenheiro Passos, near the border with Sao Paulo State and the Funil hydroelectric plant. This factory will be in full operation in 1983 and, according to NUCLEBRAS sources, it will enable Brazil to become fully independent in the nuclear sector and will even provide exports.

It is believed that nuclear independence can be achieved because Brazil, with its present 60,000-ton uranium reserve, will be able to supply uranium to all nine plants--Angra I and eight more plants included in the agreement with the FRG--which are to be built in the next 30 years. Meanwhile, Brazil still depends on others for the transformation of natural uranium into "yellow cake," one of the uranium enrichment phases, and for the final enrichment itself. In the first case, the propblem will be resolved when the Pocos de Caldas uranium complex begins operation and, in a second stage, with that of Resende.

NUCLEBRAS sources noted that the initiation of construction of the enrichment plant is further evidence that the nuclear agreement is being fully implemented despite growing international pressure.

They also noted that although construction of this plant has elicited objections worldwide, President Geisel's trip to the FRG is in no way related to its construction.

Its construction also elicited protests within the country itself: Many scientists claim that the utilization of enriched uranium is an obsolete technology, and politicians and inhabitants of Resende rejected the installation of the factory, afraid that it might worsen the pollution in the Paraiba Valley.

Yet, high-ranking NUCLEBRAS officials have guaranteed that the plant will not pollute the region. Furthermore, they noted that this industrial complex will create a number of jobs directly and indirectly in that poor region. Even so, a major part of the population opposes the construction of this factory, claiming that the main tourist attractions of the city are located in the same area chosen by NUCLEBRAS.

The original idea was to build the plant in the industrial area of Itaguai, which is closer to Rio de Janeiro, but geological surveys indicated that the soil was not adequate there and that this would bring about a considerable increase in the cost of groundwork. The selection of a different location even forced a slight delay in the initiation of work.

Resende was finally chosen because of a number of factors: It is equidistant from the two major centers of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, and this will facilitate the transportation of materials; it is linked by the Dutra and Central do Brasil highways; it has a reasonable urban structure and even an airport which is authorized for the operation of medium-sized planes; it has good-quality soil; and, there is plenty of water which can be collected both from the Paraiba River and from the Funil dam.

FRG-NETHERLANDS FRICTION SEEN ON URANIUM DEAL

PY161745Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Feb 78 p 6 PY

[By O ESTADO correspondent William Waack]

[Text] Bonn--The FRG cabinet will discuss early this morning the position to be adopted by the FRG in view of the new demands issued by the Netherlands parliament to authorize the shipment of enriched uranium by URENCO to Brazil. FRG diplomats carefully avoid making comments about what Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher will propose to his colleagues.

Political circles linked to the reaching of nuclear cooperation agreements were categorical, however, on commenting on the answer which the FRG will probably give to the Netherlands: "We are not going to allow any blackmail."

Bonn is quite annoyed with the demands of the Netherlands--a member of URENCO along with the FRG and Great Britain--which intends to restrict the shipment of enriched uranium [to Brazil] by adopting an international regulation for the implementation of safeguards, or by preparing a special agreement with Brazil before 1982, the year scheduled for beginning shipment. Commenting on the decision of the Netherlands parliament, a reliable FRG source said: "We are all fed up."

Although they formally admit the possibility of a compromise with the Netherlands, reliable sources in Bonn assert that "there is a limit to what can be accepted, and we have reached that limit." They have thus pointed out that the FRG is not ready to begin negotiations again for the implementation of safeguards which the four countries (the three members of URENCO and Brazil) had agreed upon in the beginning of January.

According to the same sources, the FRG feels that "the guarantees agreed upon by the four governments are perfectly sufficient and capable of greatly satisfying the Netherlands." It has been often repeated in Bonn that the supply of nuclear fuel to Brazil will not be changed. But if an agreement is not reached, the FRG is ready to continue by itself the construction of a uranium enriching plant in its territory to make the beginning of operations more or less coincide with the date of the first shipments to Brazil.

Netherlands political circles have warned the FRG that that step--of continuing business by itself--could bring unforeseeable international consequences to the Germans, who would thus be placing themselves in a position of one who feels that the adoption of rigid security safeguards for the supply of fissionable material is unnecessary. This argument, however, made little or no impression at all in Bonn: "We do not make a big fuss over this problem," a reliable FRG source said.

The Netherlands has not yet notified the FRG Government about the decision approved by the parliament, and this fact has been used by the Bonn Foreign Ministry to avoid a public decision in view of the new demands. "We do not make remarks about newspaper reports" is the common phrase in FRG diplomatic circles.

FRG MINISTRY ANSWERS CRITICISM OF EXPORT PREMIUM

FY1613419 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Feb 78 p 6 FY

[Text of Telex message sent to the FRG Embassy in Brasilia by FRG Economy Ministry on payment of credit insurance premium for nuclear reactors]

[Text] The FRG's Economy Ministry has stated its position on the article published in the O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO on 9 February, in which reference is made to the Brazilian-German nuclear agreement and the state insurance premium on export credits:

1. The fundamental principle in the system of insurance premiums for export credit adopted by the FRG is charging the same premium to all purchasing countries. This is the reason for not giving preferential treatment to any foreign partner.

2. This equal treatment, therefore, forbids the reduction of premiums in specific cases, because doing so would entail differential treatment of German exporting firms and this would be unacceptable for simple political reasons.

3. It is true that other Western industrialized countries tie the amount of credit insurance premiums to the financial strength of the purchasing country and that this is certainly an advantageous system. However, such a system would presuppose that the FRG grades friendly nations on a financial basis and the FRG Government is reluctant to do such grading.

4. Neither is the credit insurance premium tied to the degree of friendship between the manufacturing and purchasing countries, because doing so would turn the state export credit insurance into an instrument of foreign policy. On the contrary, it is nothing but an instrument to promote the national economy through exports.

5. This position of the German Government has been repeatedly explained to the Brazilian Government, with requests for understanding.

GEISEL TO SIGN NUCLEAR QUALITY AGREEMENT IN FRG

PY170155Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Feb 78 p 7 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--A source at the Industry and Commerce Ministry [MIC] reported yesterday that the agenda President Geisel will have in his visit to the FRG from 6 to 10 March will be defined in a ministerial meeting to be held on 23 February at Planalto Palace. This source also reported that important agreements in the technological sector could be signed during this trip: one on cooperation in developing an alcohol-operated motor and another on cooperation in quality control of equipment and components of the Brazilian nuclear program.

He also reported that President Geisel's entourage will be made up of the following ministers: Mario Simonsen, finance; Shigeaki Ueki, mines and energy; Angelo Camon de Sa, industry and commerce; Moraes Rego, chief of the military household; and, the following heads of organizations and enterprises which are subordinated to these ministries: Paulo Nogueira Batista, president of the Brazilian Nuclear Corporations [NUCLEBRAS]; Hervasio de Carvalho Guimaraes, president of the National Nuclear Energy Commission; Jose Walter Bautista Vidal, the MIC's industrial technology secretary; and Guillerme Hatab, secretary general of the Industrial Development Council.

A forum of Brazilian and German businessmen will be held in Bonn during the presidential visit, and President Geisel himself may open it. A few days ago, Itamaraty received more than 50 requests for participation from Brazilian businessmen, including representatives of national enterprises and branches of German enterprises established in Brazil.

The MIC official also reported that all economic sectors will be free to participate, but it is expected that there will be higher attendance from those sectors engaged in the supply of equipment and components for the Angra II and III plants.

Senator Virgilio Tavora will also be part of the presidential entourage to the FRG.

GENERAL BACKS BROAD GENERAL AMNESTY

PY162327Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Feb 78 p 15 PY

[Excerpts] "A political amnesty must be broad, general and unrestricted if it is to produce all the benefits which can be expected of it," Gen Pery Constant Bevilacqua stated yesterday, inaugurating the Brazilian Amnesty Committee [Comite Brasileiro pela Anistia] in the auditorium of the Brazilian Press Association [ABI]. He added that "the objective of amnesty is to cool emotions in the first place, to root out the seeds of hatred sown by injustice and violence, to prevent future vendettas and to promote reconciliation, because amnesty is, in the opinion of Pope Paul VI, one of mankind's greatest problems. This was also demonstrated by Tristao de Atahyde [Brazilian writer on religious subjects] who is another spokesman for amnesty.

Bevilacqua added: "To be equitable, an amnesty must cover all political crimes committed by persons from both sides. For instance, torturers of political prisoners must be amnestied even if their criminal action caused the death of their victims, just as subversives --who may have committed similar crimes and attacks on persons, usually in terrorist actions--should also be amnestied in the best interest of social peace.

The amnesty must be general and unrestricted to be just and to cool emotions, to root out the seeds of hatred, to restore the Brazilian people's normal unity and to prevent future vendettas, thus enabling all citizens to regain their confidence and optimism and contributing to the strengthening of national institutions."

ARENA LEADER DISCUSSES REVISION OF PUNISHMENT

PY162111Y Rio de Janiero O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Feb 78 p 6 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Deputy Jose Bonifacio, ARENA leader in the Chamber of Deputies, stated yesterday that there will be no revision of punishment, "because it is not possible," but "the restoration of political rights to those whose mandates were canceled but who have completed their punishment," can be studied.

Bonifacio feels that if a broad revision of punishment is made, "any positive result will lead others to seek the same thing, claiming that they are treated unjustly." In his opinion, some injustices could be corrected in that manner, "but many others would emerge, because some people who did not deserve a revision would be able to get one, while others who did, would not."

Bonifacio feels that the return to political activity of a large number of old-time leaders "would not bring any problem, and everything would continue normally."

"For political criminals, however, there will not and there should not be an opening. This includes those who, at the time when foreigners were being kidnaped in the country, were exchanged for the freedom of those who were kidnaped.

Bonifacio also disagrees with changing the status of some exiles, stating that "no one is in that situation." He feels that "all of them wanted to leave the country, and if some of them said different after they left, they were only using one of the most disreputable communist techniques to discredit our country abroad."

Bonifacio emphasized that if asked whether they wanted to return, many exiles "would say that they do but that the government does not allow them to return. But the truth is that they really do not want to return."

"They can all return when they want to, as long as they face pending charges and serve their sentences."

Asked if he knew whether there will really be a democratic opening, Bonifacio stated that he was aware "of the speech by President Geisel announcing the replacement of Institutional Act No 5 [AI-5] by some safeguards, an announcement which is being echoed and emphasized by the leaders of the country."

Bonifacio emphasized that in his opinion, "the safeguards should cover a broader field than AI-5, but should not be as strong." He said: "Even though they would not be as strong as AI-5, the safeguards should maintain the same effectiveness regarding objectives."

SOCIALIST WORKERS CONFER WITH SENATOR PORTELLO

PY161449Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 15 Feb 78 p 1 PY

[Text] During a visit to Senator Petronio Portella, Jorge Maluly Neto, Sao Paulo labor secretary, yesterday defended the establishment of the Social Workers Party [PST]. He stated that the movement supporting the creation of the party "is not interested in symbols, but rather in strengthening an ideal." In his opinion, symbols like PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] or the PST represent the same thing in terms of ideals.

Argeu Egidio dos Santos, president of the Sao Paulo State Federation of Metallurgical, Mechanical and Electrical Industry Workers, who also visited the senator along with 25 union leaders, asked for freedom for unions to negotiate directly with management. The senator said the issue would be analyzed after the political reforms.

MAHALHAES PINTO SAYS CAMPAIGN WILL GAIN MOMENTUM

PY161314Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 16 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Commenting on his presidencial candidacy, Magalhaes Pinto said that his campaign will gain political momentum as soon as he reveals his program and the name of his running mate. Magalhaes Pinto denied that he had been barred from participating in the national ARENA directorate this coming 22 February.

BRIEFS

DOMESTIC OIL EQUIPMENT--According to Luiz Wilson Marques de Souza, director of PETROBRAS' nationalization department, PETROBRAS can now order goods from the domestic market worth 900 million cruzeiros, which had previously been imported. The nationalization of oil industry equipment during the last few years had fluctuated between 86.3 and 89.9 percent. However, because of the highly sophisticated instrumentation needed, not much progress has been made in this area. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Feb 78 p 15 PY]

PETROBRAS NET PROFIT--The annual PETROBRAS statement shows that the company last year had a net profit of 15.38 billion cruzeiros, after deductions of 2.36 billion cruzeiros as reserves for maintenance of working capital and 1.42 billion cruzeiros for income taxes. Gross sales in 1977 totaled 163 billion cruzeiros, a 49.5-percent increase over the previous year, and investments amounted to 31.5 billion cruzeiros, a 64-percent increase. [Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY]

OIL DISCOVERY IN CAMPOS--Exploratory well submarine-50 in the Campos Basin off Rio de Janeiro hit oil early this month. Its estimated production is over 12,000 barrels per day, the highest in the Campos Basin. The discovery was confirmed by PETROBRAS technicians only yesterday. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Feb 78 p 21 PY]

OAB SUPERVISION ENDS--President Geisel has signed a decree canceling previous decrees which had put the Brazilian Lawyers Guild [OAB] under the supervision of the Labor Ministry. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 15 Feb 78 p 1 PY]

PINOCHET, VIDELA REPORTEDLY WILL MEET 20 FEB

PY161800Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 16 Feb 78 PY

[Text] The presidents of Chile and Argentina will meet on Monday in Puerto Montt. Sources close to official circles disclosed that the meeting between Presidents Augusto Pinochet and Jorge Rafael Videla will take place on Monday. However, confirmation of this report from cable services could not be obtained from the usual sources. If this is the case, the two chiefs of state will sign a document which was drawn up in Buenos Aires during the meeting of official military representatives from the two nations. The document is now being considered by both military juntas, and if no faults are found with it, it will be signed during the upcoming meeting, that is, on Monday, 20 February, in Puerto Montt.

Meanwhile, the chief of state has received Foreign Minister Vice Adm Patricio Carvajal in his office at the Government House. Carvajal briefed the president on the details of the meeting held by the special representatives. The delegation returned to Santiago during the last few hours and said that the talks were positive. Also with regard to the Buenos Aires meeting, the Foreign Ministry categorically denied that the arbitral decision had been discussed. The ministry also denied that matters related to coexistence in the southern regions had been discussed.

Informed sources said that this second presidential meeting would mark the beginning of formal negotiations to solve the problems resulting from the arbitral decision on the Beagle Channel. That is to say, the document to be signed by the two presidents would initiate these negotiations. The work carried out until this time has been to develop a working basis for the eventual negotiations, which will be designed to create a tranquil climate to remove any reasons for tension, including troop movements on the border. It is hoped that a confirmation of the presidential meeting will be disclosed in either Santiago or Buenos Aires during the next few hours.

WESTERN SILENCE ON BEAGLE QUESTION CRITICIZED

PY152351Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1900 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 15 Feb--An editorial in the newspaper EL MERCURIO today criticized Western countries and those countries having a strong influence in the area for their silence regarding the Argentine nullification of the Beagle court decision. The newspaper wondered: "What has the State Department, whose spokesmen have always been so concerned about less important issues, had to say about this issue? What, in effect, is the UK position about the endorsement which its government gave to the queen's decision, a decision which was issued by an international court? What is the opinion of EEC countries, which have always been concerned about the strict enforcement of rights at the international level and of individual rights, an enforcement which is inconceivable without just coexistence between nations?"

EL MERCURIO stated that the Argentine position was "unthinkable," that it was violating rights and that it lacked commonsense. Furthermore, it stated that Argentina continues to hold maneuvers in the disputed area, "in addition to carrying out new combat maneuvers in Salta, instead of showing understanding and a favorable attitude--which is the correct attitude that must reign in negotiations as difficult as these."

GOVERNMENT MAY WITHDRAW FROM TWO ANDEAN AGREEMENTS

PY160151Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2128 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 15 Feb--The Chilean Government is studying the possibility of withdrawing from the "Simon Rodriguez" social-labor integration agreement and the "Hipolito Unanue" health agreement, which include Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

Adelio Pipino, executive secretary for the Chilean office of Latin America Free Trade Association [LAFTA] affairs, said that since Chile's withdrawal in 1976 from the Cartagena Agreement or the Andean Pact, its action under the social-labor agreement has been impaired. He explained that the Chilean labor minister does not have access to the leadership of the agreement because Chile is out of the Cartagena Agreement. He noted that Chile held consultations with the other member countries to modify the agreement, "but this was unsuccessful because of Venezuela's position." Pipino noted that the "Hipolito Unanue" health agreement has also been quite inoperative. He said: "In general, we can say that these are quite unproductive agreements which lack practical results from both the technical point of view and that of international relations."

PARTICIPATION IN CANBERRA ANTARCTIC MEETING PLANNED

PY161446Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2241 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 15 Feb--It was learned here today that Chile will participate in the next Antarctic consultation meeting to be held in Australia, to discuss regulations to preserve biological resources [recursos vivos] on that continent. According to an official communique released here, Chile will make public its basic interest in safeguarding its sovereignty and in strengthening the 1959 Antarctic treaty. During the meeting, to be held from 27 February to 17 March in Canberra, representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, France, the United States, Great Britain, Norway, New Zealand, Japan, Poland, South Africa and the USSR will be at the meeting.

CHILE WILL NOT ATTEND MEETING OF COPPER PRODUCERS

PY152315Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2121 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 15 Feb--Chile will maintain its current level of copper production and therefore will not attend the meeting being held in London by representatives from Peru, Zambia and Zaire. Mining Minister Enrique Valenzuela said today that the countries taking part in the meetings are interested in reducing production in order to increase prices. Copper mining has been organized by the Intergovernmental Council of Copper-Exporting Countries (CIPEC), of which Chile is a member.

Valenzuela said that Chile supports the idea of reaching a prior agreement with the main copper consumers before reducing production. The mining minister indicated: "During the last CIPEC meeting it was agreed that the countries could voluntarily reduce production. Therefore, they are free to make any decision--which, of course, does not compel the other countries to do so."

He said that Zambia has the greatest problem with copper prices; "every dollar of metal it sells costs it more than a dollar. That is why it is trying to promote agreements to reduce production." He then said; "I wish they would hold fewer meetings and really decide to reduce production, because this would benefit the market."

Chile will produce approximately 950,000 metric tons of copper in 1978.

REPORT OF OVERTURES TO EAST BLOC DENIED

FY161326Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 16 Feb 78 FY

[Text] Santiago--Authorized sources from the Foreign Ministry have denied rumors of a Chilean delegation trip to communist countries, as stated in a cable report from Angelo Bernassola, leader of the World Christian Democratic Union, after his recent visit to Chile.

Ministry sources also denied Bernassola's report that Chile was taking measures to resume diplomatic relations with the GDR. It was explained that the only concrete fact with respect to this report concerns a visit by a commercial delegation from the GDR to Chile. Foreign Ministry sources emphasized that there are no plans now under consideration to resume diplomatic relations with socialist countries, as stated by the World Christian Democratic leader.

In view of Bernassola's statements concerning the return of militant communists who have been exiled since the military takeover of 1973, the sources said the government has never discriminated politically in this matter. They added that persons who are returning to the country or who want to do so have only to file a petition to the respective consulate, to promise to refrain from all political activity and to work toward the nation's development.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S REPORT PROTESTED

FY171304Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 17 Feb 78 FY

[Text] Santiago--The Chilean Government presented a protest before the UN Human Rights Commission against the publication of a report on the rights situation in this country, which was prepared by the ad hoc work group without waiting for the Santiago government's observations. The protest was presented to the commission by Ambassador Manuel Truco, the Chilean permanent representative to international organizations headquartered in Geneva. Truco said he had asked for the joint publication of these documents, but the commission did not consider the petition, arguing that it had procedures which had to be followed.

The Foreign Ministry reported that the period requested by Chile to consider the report was not granted either. With respect to this, the Foreign Ministry reported that the Chilean representative had asked to see the report 1 month before the commission began its debates. The commission began its debates on 7 February. The Chilean delegation reported that it received the report only 5 days before. The report says that Chile continues to violate human rights, although it does recognize that there are some improvement.

BOMB DESTROYS LUFTHANSA OFFICES IN BOGOTA

PA171414Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1354 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 17 Feb--The police have confirmed that a medium-strength bomb exploded early this morning in the installations of the German Lufthansa Airline office. The police reported that there were no casualties, but there was considerable property damage.

The bomb destroyed the airline company's reception office and shattered windows in neighboring buildings. The explosion caused panic among residents of the downtown area of the capital.

STATE OF SIEGE TO REMAIN IN EFFECT

PA161320Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen today discarded the possibility of lifting the state of siege in the country, arguing that the present drug trafficking and kidnaping activities are two reasons for maintaining the state of siege. The president related this position to opposition leaders [words indistinct] who met with him at the San Carlos Palace to inform him about the [word indistinct] that officials are advancing [words indistinct] in the forthcoming electoral campaign.

National Opposition Union (UNO) Senator Humberto Trialis de las Rosas told Santa Fe that the opposition will withdraw its representatives from the guarantees tribunal since it considers that this is an inefficient organization that depends on the good will of President Lopez [passage indistinct].

MINING ZONE OF SEGOVIA PLACED UNDER MARTIAL LAW

PA160426Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2225 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 15 Feb (EFE)--It has been officially announced that the mining zone of the municipality of Segovia, where public disorders have occurred, was placed under martial law today. The Antioquia authorities reported that the measure was taken due to clashes that have occurred in the Cogote gold mine. A sector of the Union of the Frontino Gold Mines and the independent miners group have been disputing the exploitation of the mine which has given rise to public disturbances. The Cogote mine is owned by the U.S. company Frontino Gold Mines. More than 500 persons are economically dependent on it.

M-19 URBAN GUERRILLAS ASK PEOPLE TO UNITE

PA152106Y Bogota Radio Sante Fe in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] M-19, an urban guerrilla organization, delivered a communique to local news media in which it asks the people to unite against the oligarchy and to support a single candidate of the left. In its communique, M-19 strongly criticizes the leaders of the traditional parties who are vying for the presidential nomination for the June elections. Under the title: "Division, an Instrument of the Oligarchy," M-19 scores President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen's government. In the communique, M-19 also claims it committed about 20 terrorist acts since 26 December 1977. It mentions the seizure in Bogota and Cali of two trucks loaded with poultry, which it distributed among the poor.

POLITICAL GROUPS URGES UNITY AGAINST PERU

PA161640Y Quito Radio Cadena Nacional Ecuatoriana in Spanish 1300 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Quito--The Democratic Institutionalist Coalition [Coalicion Institucionalista Democrata--CID] is asking all political parties and groups and other influential organizations in the country to form a single front in order to reject Peru's position regarding the rights of Ecuador and also as a demonstration of solidarity with the Ecuadorean Foreign Relations Ministry. The CID says that the rest of America should know that the Ecuadorean people support the Foreign Relations Ministry's praiseworthy efforts to have justice prevail concerning our unrenounceable rights over the Amazonian region.

OFFICIAL DENIES RIFT IN CONSERVATIVE PARTY

PA161729Y Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 8 Feb 78 p 9 PA

[Text] Rodrigo Suarez Morales, national director of the Conservative Party, was asked if it is true that there is division among members of the party because the Constitutionalist Front has supported, from its inception, the presidential candidacy of Sixto Duran Ballen, while a large number of conservatives have expressed support for Jaime Acosta Velasco. Suarez Morales answered that the Conservative Party never issues resolutions without consulting its members.

Suarez Morales, who is serving a term as president of the Constitutionalist Front, said that the front's pronouncement in support of the candidacy of Duran Ballen was unanimously supported by all the provincial and district directorates of the Conservative Party, which indicates that there is enormous, widespread support for that candidacy throughout the country.

LABOR LEADERS RELEASED FROM PRISON

PA161732Y Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 9 Feb 78 p 8 PA

[Text] Luis Cordero Cordero, president of the Federation of Free Sugar Workers of Ecuador, and Julio Chacon Quishpe, president of the Federation of Workers of the Province of Azuay, were released yesterday afternoon by order of police intendant general Jaime Vernaza Trujillo. The two had been imprisoned since late October at the State Training and Labor Institute.

The two labor leaders had been arrested by the national police on charges of criticizing the government following the incidents which took place at the AZTRA sugar mill and during the strike at the San Carlos sugar mill. As we have reported, the leaders of the Federation of Free Sugar Workers and its branch in Guayas submitted a request for the release of Cordero and Chacon to retired Col Jorge Salvador Chiriboga, minister of labor and social welfare, who promised to make the necessary arrangements in the capital. As a result, the two labor leaders were released yesterday.

BRIEFS

NEW SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR--Quito, 14 Feb (EFE)--Official sources have revealed that Salvador Rovira Pleitez, new Salvadoran ambassador to Ecuador, will arrive in Quito today. The Salvadoran Government recently decided to reopen its permanent embassy in Quito. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1255 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA]

COMMUNIST PARTY INVITES 'POPULAR FORCES' TO JOIN IT

PA161651Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1637 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 15 Feb (AFP)--The orthodox Peruvian Communist Party (PCP) has invited "popular forces" to join it in order to prevent reactionary forces from confirming the present "process of regression" in the coming constituent assembly. In a communique released today the party said that its request for registration by the National Electoral Tribunal for the June elections was a resounding victory of the masses and a defeat of "the regressive right, the reactionary government sectors and the rabid ultraleft."

The Communist Party, whose secretary is Jorge del Prado, also complained of "the existence of serious antidemocratic restrictions" which show that reactionary and proimperialist parties continue to gain ground. This "poses the threat that the constituent assembly will be artificially dominated by them and will become a confirmation instrument of the process of regression or backward movement we have been seeing," the communique added. Asking for the unity of popular forces to dispel this danger, it demanded "political and labor amnesty, the opening of the information media to popular parties, the right to vote for illiterates and the direct representation of peasant and labor organizations in the constituent assembly."

Concluding, it stated that the barring of the National Agrarian Confederation from registration by the electoral tribunal "clearly shows how social organizations are not even permitted to participate in the elections."

TEACHERS UNION REJECTS CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

PA151639Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2130 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 14 Feb (AFP)--The neutrality of Peruvian teachers during the coming constituent assembly elections was decided here today by the Single Union of Education Workers [SUTEP] during a national congress of this entity which groups some 120,000 teachers. SUTEP leader Julio Mendoza Garcia announced at the end of the debates that "the economic crisis and the government's isolation from the people compelled the military regime to call elections in order to divide the people and to divert them from the defense of their interests."

The SUTEP secretary general also disqualified [descalifico] all leftist and rightist parties which take part in the electoral process and refused authority for any of the SUTEP members to participate in the name of the union.

Mendoza Garcia issued a protest against the government because it disregarded the teachers demands for better salaries. He asked for the release of arrested teachers and the restitution of those dismissed from their jobs and announced a meeting for 16 March to support his demands.

BRIEFS

PETROPERU EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT--Army Gen Victor Lopez Mendoza has taken over the post as executive president of the state petroleum agency [PETROPERU], replacing Gen Cesar Augusto Freitas (Ramos). [Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Feb 78 PY]

MENDEZ MEETS WITH PARAGUAYAN NAVY COMMANDER

FY161730Y Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1500 GMT 16 Feb 78 FY

[Excerpt] At noon today President Aparicio Mendez received in his office Vice Adm Cesar Cortese, commander of the Paraguayan Navy. Admiral Cortese, who arrived in Montevideo last night at the invitation of his Uruguayan counterpart Hugo Marques, is making an official visit to our country. Admiral Cortese said that his visit is designed to strengthen the current friendly relations between Uruguay and Paraguay. Following his schedule for important meetings in this capital, Cortese arrived at Government House at noon today to hold a meeting with the president, taking the opportunity to deliver a personal greeting message from recently reelected Paraguayan President Gen Alfredo Stroessner.

Cortese Views Atlantic Security

FY170123Y Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Feb 78 FY

[Excerpts] Paraguayan Navy Commander Cesar Cortese met today with President Mendez and the Uruguayan Armed Forces commanders. Admiral Cortese, who will stay in Uruguay until Wednesday, was interviewed by Radio Carve about the recent elections in Paraguay: [begin recording]

[Question] Do you believe it is necessary to create a force in the South Atlantic similar to NATO?

[Answer] I believe the South Atlantic must provide our countries--that is, the countries of the Free World--adequate security and guarantees. Security measures should vary with the capability of each country's navy, its government policies, and the means which each navy has. These should be considered in providing guarantees and security over those routes which are vital to us--routes to Europe, the United States, the African coast and elsewhere. This is a great responsibility for our navies. [words indistinct] There is now an organization called the South Atlantic Maritime Areas Control Organization, which has alternate headquarters in Argentina and Brazil. Both the Uruguayan and Paraguayan navies have representatives appointed to it. This is a consultive and planning group which shows the importance we give to the South Atlantic coast. [end recording]

ALVAREZ ATTENDS FIRST SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

FY162358Y Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Feb 78 FY

[Text] Army Commander Gregorio Alvarez has reiterated that there will be no changes in the social and political policies of the country. General Alvarez made this statement this morning when he was leaving Government House, where he attended his first security council meeting as army commander. He noted that the president, commanders and cabinet ministers who are members of the National Security Council [COCENA] welcomed him during this meeting. General Alvarez then told them of his intention to give his full support and cooperation to solving all the problems which are submitted to COCENA. In addition, he confirmed that the steps established for the development of the institutional restoration process will be fulfilled. This process provides for the enforcement of a new constitituion and general elections in 1980.

PEREZ VIEWS OIL SALES, BUDGET ALLOTMENTS

PA162006Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez held a news conference with the reporters who cover Miraflores Palace affairs on the topic of the day, the reduction in oil production. You will hear first that portion of President Perez' remarks where he says that some confusion has arisen. At the end of last year Venezuela had accumulated a large inventory.

Perez--begin recording] Some confusion has arisen. Venezuela ended last year with large accumulated inventories as far as oil is concerned. Taking into consideration the undoubtable drop in oil sales and the large inventories, the oil industry decided to reduce production in order to try to sell as much as it could of the inventories, in other words, of the extracted oil or "fuel oil" [in English] in existence in Venezuelan storage facilities. Thus we find that in the month of January and throughout February of this year oil exports exceeded the rate of production. To oil production sales we must add 250,000 barrels a day of the accumulated Venezuelan inventories which are also being sold. Therefore, sales have never totaled 1.7 million or 1.4 million barrels. Venezuelan oil sales have totaled 1.95 million barrels, more or less exactly what was sold in January and February 1977. [end recording]

The president added that, of course, it has been done or, rather, it has been stated that it is foreseeable that there will be a mean reduction in Venezuelan oil sales during the year. However, if worse comes to worst, that reduction would not exceed 50,000 barrels a day. Still I think, President Carlos Andres Perez said, that we are most likely to reach 2.2 million barrels a day.

Venezuelans are undertaking a firm, indeed audacious development, but we must take into consideration Venezuela's resources and the reality of today's world. Those were the words of President Carlos Andres Perez during lengthy remarks on the oil production drop. Here is another portion of President Carlos Andres Perez' statement:

[Perez--begin recording] We Venezuelans are undertaking a firm, indeed audacious development but we must take into consideration Venezuela's resources and the reality of today's world. We have no reason to feel anything but optimism, even though, of course, I am not and never have been satisfied with the haphazard fashion in which Venezuelans ?distribute' the moneys resulting from this extraordinary national economic boom. There are many superfluous imports and even FEDECAMARAS [the Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry] has stated that trips and spending abroad by an excessive number of Venezuelans total many millions of dollars, dollars misspent due to that frivolity which seems to affect many of the serious people who have fundamental responsibilities, dollars for the future of Venezuela.

[Question] Therefore, a budget adjustment has not been proposed, Mr President?

[Answer] No budget adjustment has been proposed due to the oil situation. However, as I have done every year, always within the first 3 months of the year, I order a budget review in order to reduce allotments which, in the opinions of my advisers on this matter, seem to be inflated. Do not forget that last year, as the press reported, we cut several hundred millions of dollars from the spending budget. I intend to do the same thing this year and, probably, as I did last year, toward the end of February we may be able to announce some savings in the spending budget. [end recording]

REPORT ON AGREEMENTS REACHED WITH SPANISH MINISTER

PA162337Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The Spanish minister of commerce has returned home after a brief official trip to Venezuela. It was reported that Minister Juan Antonio Garcia Diez proposed an agreement to officials in our country to allow the Spanish fishing fleet to operate in the Caribbean. It was also said that Venezuelan officials reportedly accepted that idea in principle and that they also discussed Spain's cooperation in the reorganization of fishing activities in Venezuela. It was noted finally that the Spanish minister reportedly also agreed to increase Spanish oil imports from Venezuela by 150 percent.

COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA TO INCREASE HEALTH COOPERATION

PA161817Y Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 11 Feb 78 pp 1,20 PA

[Text] Venezuela and Colombia will intensify their efforts to strengthen the border agreement on health signed by the two countries.

Dr Antonio Parra Leon, minister of health and social welfare, and the Colombian delegation headed by Health Vice Minister Dr Luis Fernando Duque, yesterday interrupted the 3-day conference which the two countries are holding in Caracas to discuss common border problems in the field of health, in order to hold a brief meeting.

In the course of the meeting, both Minister Parra Leon and Vice Minister Fernando Duque indicated that the agreement being discussed has permitted the two countries to constructively confront their health problems in the border area.

"We can state," they said, "that our united efforts have been effective and we reiterate the firm willingness of the two countries to increase those efforts."

The health minister was accompanied by Director of Public Health Dr Jose Manuel Padilla Lepage and Dr Daniel Orellana of the World Health Office. The Colombian vice minister was accompanied by Doctors Luis E. Villamizar Herrera, Carlos Ferro Vargas and Jorge Michelsen.

In the framework of the border agreement, Venezuela and Colombia began yesterday to draft their program of activities for 1978.

It is believed that this 10th meeting of the national committees of the Colombian-Venezuelan agreement will end today with approval of new health measures for the border region.

ANTILLES MINISTER-PRESIDENT WELCOMES VENEZUELAN INVESTMENTS

PA151829Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Netherlands Antilles Minister-President Sylvius Rozendal has revealed the facilities his country provides for foreign investments. The distinguished visitor spoke to Vanezuelan business circles and emphasized that good prospects exist for Venezuelans to invest in his country. Previously, the minister-president had met with Venezuelan Senate President Gonzalo Barrios and House President Oswaldo Alvarez Paz.

Labor Ministers Confer

PA162323Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Netherlands Antilles Minister of Labor Hubert Spencer [as heard] has paid a visit to his Venezuelan counterpart, Jose Manzo Gonazlez. Minister Spencer is a member of the entourage of distinguished figures who are accompanying Minister-President Silvius Rozendaal. The visit falls within the framework of the continuation of his work of rapprochement with Venezuelan officials.

Their meeting was held at Minister Manzo Gonzalez' office where they exchanged views, experiences and impressions regarding labor affairs. It also served to establish close ties of friendship and cooperation between the two officials. Dr Fermin (Ruiz) y Cordero, Labor Ministry general director, also attended the meeting.

STUDENT KILLED IN CLASH WITH POLICE

PA151925Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] One dead and five wounded was the result of clashes between students and police in San Felipe, the capital of Yaracuy State, Venezuela. According to the newspaper EL NACIONAL of Caracas, the student demonstrations were carried out on the occasion of the first anniversary of the death of two youths who were killed in clashes with police. The newspaper adds that in the city of Nirgua, Yaracuy State, the students burned the headquarters of the official Democratic Action Party and the opposition Social Christian Party.

AD: Subversives Behind Attack

PA161759Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Democratic Action [AD] has charged that subversive groups attacked the party offices in the city of San Felipe. The charges were made by Dr Humberto Celli, National White Tent [Tolda Blanca] leader. The party leader said that subversive groups infiltrated the student demonstration in San Felipe and fired shots at the regional AD offices. A young student died during the incidents. Dr Humberto Celli went to the capital of Yaracuy in order to file a report on the incidents in San Felipe with the AD national directors.

Forty people were injured during the disturbances in San Felipe. They were taken to the hospital in the capital of Yaracuy. It was reported that military detachments have surrounded the hospital. The incidents took place in commemoration of the killing of two students.

Interior Minister Blames Ultraleftists

PA170042 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2121 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Caracas, 16 Feb (EFE)--It was reported here today that about 40 persons were injured during yesterday's incidents in San Felipe during the funeral of a youth shot to death in a demonstration. Half of those injured showed symptons of asphyxiation due to the tear gas thrown by the police, the same sources said.

In view of the tense climate and to prevent disturbances, more than 1,000 members of the Venezuelan Army, National Guard, metropolitan police and the civil and military intelligence services have virtually taken control of the city located 275 km west of Caracas.

The exact number of those arrested is still unknown but it is estimated that between 20 and 30 persons are being held at the San Felipe police station.

The governor's office has closed as has 30 percent of the business establishments. Classes have been suspended and the police are guarding the schools and the hospitals, where the injured persons have been taken.

The death of the San Felipe student gave rise to protest actions in other cities such as Caracas and Barquisimeto. Those actions coincided with various student demonstrations in Puerto Cabello, Merida and Maracaibo which were staged for reasons of an academic nature.

Interior Minister Octavio Lepage has blamed the events on ultraleftist groups, which for mainly political reasons want to foment violence, inciting the students "for the sinister purpose of forcing the government to use the police force."

Nevertheless, the opposition Social Christian Party (COPEI) has directly blamed Democratic Action for the events. It demanded that the ruling party's gangs in San Felipe be disarmed. The AD has denied the existence of those groups.

Meanwhile, San Felipe Bishop Marquez Gomez blamed the actions on foolhardiness, sectarianism, feelings of superiority and anarchy. During the funeral, he appealed to the youths to curb their impulses and express in a dignified manner sorrow for their dead companion.

EIGHT PRESUMED GUERRILLAS CAPTURED BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS

PA1116121Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Feb 73 PA

[Text] Eight presumed guerrillas have been captured in Anzoategui and Guarico states. They were captured in the course of search operations which are underway in the eastern part of the country. One of those arrested is of high rank among the guerrilla groups which operate in the region.

The guerrillas were taken to a military camp in El Tenero, in Monagas State.

STUDENT GROUP ATTACKS RULING PARTY OFFICES

PA1623151Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 Feb 73 PA

[Text] Student groups have taken over the Democratic Action office in La Sorpresa, Puerto Cabello. The demonstrators destroyed typewriters and White Tent documents belonging to the party. It has been reported that the students attend the Jose Antonio Maitin Junior High School and that they staged their protest along the main street in La Sorpresa.

FURTHER REACTION TO U.S. SENATE SESSION ON TORRIJOS

CRITICA Protests Session

PA1700031Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 16 Feb 78 p 4 PA

["Bona Fide" column by Camilo O. Perez: "The Uplifted Army"]

[Text] The U.S. Senate has some nerve, holding a closed-door session on Panama's internal affairs. Debating the affairs of a foreign country as if it were Kennedy's life and his relations with his secretary, the secretary of treasury's behavior and his stock market deals, or even Nixon's doings after the Watergate affair, is brash, but at the same time concretely demonstrates how U.S. politicians think. They believe the rest of the world belongs to them and its development depends on the internal security of the United States of America.

We cannot remain silent about the plans to meet on the 21st solely to question aspects of our internal affairs or analyze the different attitudes of the more prominent Panamanians regarding the treaty discussions.

We feel the entire country should oppose this direct interference, this inquisitive arrogance of U.S. congressmen who--not all of them, of course--even at this stage of international relations want to continue exporting their "establishment."

On 21 February we will all stand holding our arms uplifted awaiting the collapse of the arrogant power of an organization that has even challenged President Carter himself, a Congress which has lowered the value of the dollar by flatly rejecting the energy program.

A Senate that has not been able to meet President Carter's expectations and faces world-wide discredit cannot be the center of a nation's political honesty. Some of them will continue playing with their little black and white buttons, playing with votes, hoping for a solution that will consider the sizable profits received by the multimillionaires of Wall Street companies.

Nevertheless, every conscientious Panamanian will know how to give this interference in our internal affairs a good social, collective, crucial and final answer. Those arrogant men will not have their way. Panamanians who lend themselves to this kind of arrogance will not have their way. We are not arguing now whether the conduct of some Panamanians is good or bad. We are not discussing that now. What we want is that Panamanian problems be discussed, criticized and censured by the Panamanians themselves, without foreign agents telling us what to do.

For this reason we will be out on the street on the 21st, standing, asking everybody to stop, to mark our place in history, with patriotic pride embracing the doctrine of non-intervention.

Dole To Be 'Tried'

PA1700083Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Text] In its latest general assembly, the broad front of attorneys decided to elect a court of justice to publicly try Senator Robert Dole, whom the attorneys have accused of criminal attacks on the dignity of the fatherland.

The group of Panamanian professionals has issued a communique noting that it is evident that the recent statements made by Senator Dole in regard to our country and its leaders reflect the desperation of a minority U.S. Senate group facing ratification of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

Regarding the position of the broad front of attorneys in the face of the charges made by Senator Dole, the president of that organization, Renato Pereira, stated:

[begin recording] As I have said, Senator Dole is trying to create an unfavorable and humiliating impression of the Panamanian people and state before the American people. At the same time, however, it is an effort to destabilize this process. They fear people who inconspicuously proclaim their right to independence and sovereignty. For this reason they do not want men who believe in and struggle for that independence--for the independence of their people--to be at the head of their respective processes.

For this reason, this humiliation, this offense by Robert Dole, is directed against the Panamanian people, against the Panamanian cause as much as against the persons who represent it, and we are not going to tolerate that offense. This is the reason for our communique. This country was born a semicolony. We have struggled for 70 long years to get rid of that semicolonial image, and we have reached the culminating point in that struggle. We are at a moment when we can begin a progressive movement of decolonization and this is the reason why efforts are being made to denigrate us. I repeat, the insult, the offense is not against General Torrijos but against the Panamanian people, nation and state. [end recording]

LA ESTRELLA Raps Dole

PA170411Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Feb 78 p 4 PA

[Article by Bilo Mendez: "Senator Dole's 'Ripoff'"]

[Text] In the popular U.S. argot of today, which is given to explosive verbs, the gringo equivalent of the Argentine "macana" and our "bellaqueria" is a ripoff. In all of the political circles and communications media in the great northern union, Senator Robert Dole is known as the hatchet man (truthkiller) of the formerly honorable Republican Party. Hence, during the electoral campaign of '77 [date as published], Senator Dole was assigned the unworthy task of trailing behind Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale's campaign caravans and discrediting, by whatever means, the proposals made by the Democratic candidates.

On the other hand, the most prominent politicians and newsmen in Washington know that since 1971 a campaign of accusations has been launched to link Panama's chief of government with the drug trade. However, not much importance and even less prominence was given to the charges, since there was no documentation to support them. The origin of most of these charges was Gen Omar Torrijos' political enemies. Moreover, by adopting "prompt" and "severe" measures against this trade, the revolutionary government had won international approval from the forces combatting this infamous business.

And although the chief of the U.S. Government department on the use and abuse of narcotics had replied in writing to a direct request by Senator Dole that "there was no evidence" against General Torrijos and also that Torrijos was not mentioned, directly or indirectly, in the files of that department, Senator Dole nevertheless decided to stage his theatrical production last Friday to stain the Panamanian chief of government's reputation.

Senator Dole made his ploy even though he knew that the U.S. internal security regulations do not allow publication of the contents of secret documents without the authorization by the U.S. President or majority vote of the Senate. Senator Dole only wanted to do harm; he was not seeking the truth.

The attitude of the above-mentioned "truthkiller" senator is not surprising, since his political mentor was none other than former President Richard Nixon, who had to resign from his high post when his predilection for lies, attacks, abuse of authority and lack of integrity was proved. He accepted in advance the pardon offered in pity by President Gerald Ford. This pardon is "not quite legal" if examined in detail.

MORE REACTION TO CORAL GABLES MEETING

Samudio Criticized

PA161757Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 15 Feb 78 p 6-a PA

["Consciencia Publica" column by Miguel Angelo Moreno Gongora: "Democratic Participation"]

[Text] The nonattendance of [Liberal Party President] David Samudio at the Miami meeting and the reasons he gave to justify it constitute the most notorious contradiction produced with the movement of institutional restoration underway in the country. At a time when political groups, without compromising their party lines or ideological principles, are seeking through frank dialog basic points upon which to base their call for a return of democratic institutions, it is remarkable that the Liberal Party--undoubtedly one of the strongest in the country--after participating without reservations in several preliminary meetings, should have lost sight of its historic contribution and reverted to point zero in refusing to attend the Coral Gables talks.

Samudio's position is contradictory because it refuses to meet the obligation of the political groups of harmoniously participating in talks which may pave the way for a large-scale dialog or for the national agreement which he himself called for a few days ago. As we have said, this dialog must include both the sectors opposing the government, which are asking for a return to institutional democracy, and the government itself which, sooner or later, must stop lending a deaf ear to national demands for a revision of the political foundations established by the revolutionary process.

It is inexcusable that David Samudio, who nobody can deny is intelligent and politically able, at a time of such great historic importance should have made the mistake of refusing to attend the Miami meeting, basing his reason on the conjecture that the treaties would be attacked at the meeting. It was a risky conjecture because, according to our information, this national problem was not to be discussed as he thought. That is why it is so surprising that this should have been the excuse used to lessen the patriotic weight of the meeting to which we referred.

Every meeting of local political groups, which have never ceased to exist and which will continue to grow despite official claims to the contrary, is a positive contribution to the national unity so necessary for finding a way to the prompt institutional restoration which all Panamanians desire with such patriotic fervor.

Political Parties Repudiated

PA170354Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television 2300 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Some 3,000 Panamanians from a dozen Panama Province corregimientos gathered at the Presidente Remon Racetrack to repudiate the political parties and the recently held meeting of Panamanian politicians in Miami [Coral Gables]. The meeting held yesterday afternoon reasserted support for Government Chief Gen Omar Torrijos and his government team in their struggle to attain the ratification of the new canal treaties. Gathered in a general assembly of revolutionary militants with one representative per community board in [ante] the central committee, this is the first political activity held in support of the government. Representative Romelia de Pardo spoke during the meeting. The revolutionary militants expect this rejection of the political parties to be imitated by other organizations.

LABOR LEADER ON CANAL ZONE WORKERS' RIGHTS

PA161512Y Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 16 Feb 78 pp 1, 3 PA

[Excerpts] There is nothing whatever to suggest that the labor rights of Canal Zone employees are threatened once the new Panama Canal treaties are approved, in the opinion of Luis Anderson, secretary-general of Local 907, U.S. Armed Forces Employees Union. Anderson's statement was in obvious reference to a rally planned for tonight by Local 14, American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), in support of a national AFGE move to withhold treaty backing until canal employees are provided what they consider to be "adequate and acceptable labor protection." The rally is to be held at the administration building (Goethals Monument) beginning at 7 P.M.

"If anything should come up that is contrary to the interests of the workers, we shall be the first to combat the issue," Anderson said. "The new treaties incorporate a series of union aspirations such as the right to vocations, social security coverage and other measures that will also benefit more than 1,000 employees from nonappropriated funds," he said, adding that so far "there are no signs that these achievements are threatened."

Anderson, along with Saturmin Mauge, president of Local 900, Panama Canal Employees Union, formed part of a team of labor advisors to the Panamanian Government during the treaty negotiating period. Several months ago, during a joint session of Locals 900 and 907, the leaders disclosed in full the labor conquests made and their incorporation into the treaties. "All that is now necessary is that they be converted into law following ratification of the treaties," he said. Anderson said that the only area where there was some difference of opinion was that related to early retirement. He, however, recognized that a closer meeting of minds on the subject had been accoplished the past days. He pointed out that one of the most significant achievements was application of the Panama Labor Code and social security benefits to employees that previously had not been protected by any law.

Meanwhile, it was learned that a sector in the Canal Zone opposed to the Torrijos-Carter document were endeavoring to instigate another strike such as the one which crippled operations at the canal Mar 16 through 20, 1976. Said to be spearheading the strike move is William Drummond, president of the Canal Zone Police Association.

COSTA RICA

ANONYMOUS CALLERS THREATEN TO ATTACK MINISTRY OFFICE

PA160341Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1748 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 16 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Initially anonymous callers who were later identified as anticommunists have warned the Public Security Ministry that the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry building would be attacked in the next few days. The telephone calls prompted certain security measures to be implemented around the "Yellow House," where the Foreign Ministry is located. Apparently, the presumed terrorists want to register a protest against the upcoming signing of two agreements, one cultural and the other commercial, between Costa Rica and Cuba.

The telephone calls yesterday followed other calls in previous days threatening installations of the Puntica industrial complex in the port of Puntarenas, where the main fertilizer manufacturing plant is located. However, nothing has occurred there.

PRESIDENT-ELECT ON PANAMA CANAL, MEXICO, DOMESTIC ISSUES

Supports Panama's Claim

PA170014Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Feb 78 pp 1, 20 PA

[Luis Espinoza C. article]

[Excerpts] "I have always been in favor of Panama's aspirations regarding the Canal and Zone. That is why I have great respect for President Jimmy Carter's decision for a satisfactory solution which will not only benefit the United States' relations with Panama but also with the rest of Latin America," Rodrigo Carazo Odio, Costa Rican president-elect, said to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA.

Our special envoy interviewed Carazo at his office at the old Franco-Costa Rican school in front of San Juan de Dios Hospital, in the building known as Los Leones where the Unity Party had its headquarters during the victorious electoral campaign in which Carazo won the presidency on his second try. The first try was in 1974 as the Democratic Renovation Party candidate.

Regarding his meeting with Carlos Andres Ozores Typaloos, Panama's foreign vice minister, Carazo said that it was a courtesy visit on the part of Ozores. I expressed to him my best wishes for the ratification of the treaties and asked him to convey a cordial greeting to the chief of government, Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, with whom I have not been in contact, Carazo said.

"Costa Rica is facing a serious political and institutional crisis, and administrative corruption and social chaos are widespread. Our government is going to try to simplify the state apparatus. It will halt the state capitalism process implemented by the present government. It will be replaced by allowing the people organized participation of the people, so that their initiative can be channeled to promoting their own development. It will be a government of men willing to serve and do their duty with dignity in every respect," Carazo pointed out.

"The state will guarantee the physical safety of newsmen in the exercise of their duties and the news media's installations and equipment," Carazo promised.

Regarding commerce in the import section with other countries, "we are going to purchase abroad all the items we need to increase our economy's orderly development and all basic consumer goods. We also are going to implement protective measures so that countries outside of Central America which are heavy sellers and buy little or nothing from us grant Costa Rica more equitable commercial treatment," Carazo said.

"The present government has not given proper attention to the problem of the enormous exodus of Costa Rican tourists," Carazo indicated. In the past 5 years, from 67,000 to 164,000 Costa Ricans have gone out of the country each year, most of them to Panama. "An erroneous tax policy is the cause of extremely high prices on radios, watches, electric home appliances and other articles. This is why Costa Ricans go to Panama and other countries on shopping trips via attractive tours offered by other countries in the area, such as Colombia and some Caribbean islands," Carazo pointed out.

The Unity Party government program contains a broad plan to improve infrastructures, he said, along with other measures to attract Central American tourists.

Denies Attacking Mexico

PA160430Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0125 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 15 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Costa Rican President-elect Rodrigo Carazo today stressed his wish to maintain cordial relations with Mexico during his mandate and denied Mexican newspaper reports that he had made statements detrimental to Mexico.

Carazo made the statements this afternoon for the Radio Monumental newscast amid the stir caused by reports in Mexico that the Independent Revolutionary Party, which has been in power in that country for 40 years, had openly helped his rival, Luis Alberto Monge. Monge was defeated by Carazo in the 5 February elections.

The president-elect, who will begin his term on 8 May, said that he does not wish the Mexican press to extend the Costa Rican election campaign, which lasted so many months, to Mexico. He added that he feels an attempt is being made to exploit Costa Ricans in connection with internal political problems in Mexico.

According to the newspaper reports, Carazo allegedly spoke in detrimental terms about Mexico for having helped his rival with money, propaganda material and technical advice. "It would be completely out of place if the political campaign which ended in Costa Rica were to continue in Mexico," Carazo told the newscast laconically.

Criticizes Labor Laws

PA162329Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Text] President-elect Rodrigo Carazo Odio has told Public Employees National Association members that bills that threaten human rights have been passed in recent years in Costa Rica. Carazo Odio said that he was in favor of separating the civil service from the executive branch. He said that, in fact, it should be under the judicial branch. Carazo Odio said that Article 394 of the penal law, which deals with the incarceration of labor leaders, is one of the many cases in which human rights are violated. We are going to see if we can do something about it, Carazo Odio said.

He said that a tripartite commission, composed of businessmen, workers and the government, will be appointed to amend the 35-year-old labor code. We are going to work to have social justice prevail, he said.

Regarding the civil service, Carazo Odio said that his government is going to promote efficiency and stability for state employees. He said that a committee formed by public employees is already working on this.

PATRIOTIC ACTION OPPOSES CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

PA161405Y San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 1220 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Patriotic Action [Accion Patria] group, made up of prominent members of the National Liberation Party, publicly expresses its firm decision to oppose the convocation of a constituent assembly. The group states in its communique that it is fully convinced that such a convocation would not only be detrimental to the country's interests and contrary to the will expressed by the people during the 5 February elections, but is also unnecessary and violates the most elementary principles of public law and the constitution.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO STRIKE 16 FEBRUARY

PA160430Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2112 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemala's government employees today announced their decision to hold a general strike tomorrow in view of the government's refusal to increase their salaries. The strike will affect education, public works, roads, hospitals, telegraphs, mails and practically the entire government.

In a communique issued today, the "emergency committee of state workers" said it will hold the central government responsible for "anything that might occur." The committee explained that since April of last year "futile" attempts have been made to talk to the authorities to obtain a wage increase and effective control of the prices of basic commodities. It added that "by not holding the dialog and on the other hand violating labor laws, the government has forced us to take steps out of need."

Meanwhile, the government announced today that it will repress any attempts to paralyze the work of the government since these workers are not permitted to strike. It added that if it yields to wage demands, nearly 40 million quetzales (at par with the dollar) would be needed which is not budgeted and which "would slow down government work in other areas of social benefit."

Official Urges Calm

PA161730Y Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Maj Rolando Archila Marroquin, presidency public relations under secretary, has asked government employees threatening to disrupt public order to keep calm. He said that problems should be solved through dialog. Archila Marroquin added that, according to the civil service law, civil service employees cannot go on strike.

For his part, the finance minister has said that state workers are not underpaid.

REBEL ARMED FORCES ANNOUNCE RENEWED ACTIVITIES

PA170159Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2035 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 16 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The underground "Rebel Armed Forces" [Fuerzas Armadas Rebeldes--FAR] today announced the resumption of guerrilla activity with the intention of establishing a socialist regime in Guatemala. In a communique released to the press, the socialist-leaning FAR, which was active in this country during the 1960's, announced its new antigovernment activities.

The communique says that a FAR unit clashed with the police in the southern part of the capital on 7 February, during which two of their members, Adrian Lopez Garcia and Jose Francisco Chavez Vasquez, died. At that time they were identified as common criminals.

Defining its goals, the FAR listed the following: the transfer of power to the working classes and the country's exploited masses and the building of a society without exploiters and exploited, that is to say, socialism, the first step on the path to communism.

The communique says that the fallen guerrillas had fought against 500 government special forces members, proving that "with a communist spirit and a high degree of combat preparedness, the bourgeois state and its repressive forces can be destroyed in the immediate future."

CABINET MINISTERS APPOINTED TO DEVELOPMENT BOARD

PA160009Y Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The finance, education and economy ministers have been appointed members of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Administration for Development [INAD] by means of a decree issued today by the presidency of the republic. President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud said that INAD is a technical body dedicated to studying and conducting research into national administrative problems and training personnel in public administration matters. Therefore, he said, these three ministries must work together to achieve these objectives in the best possible manner.

NICARAGUA

'WAVE OF TERRORISM' REPORTED IN COUNTRY

PA161357Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] A wave of terrorism has begun to be felt in the country. So far this week, there have been several terrorist actions. No casualties have been reported.

Yesterday morning a homemade bomb exploded on a wall of the home of Col Alesio Gutierrez, police chief of Managua. It caused slight property damage. In addition, bomb explosions have been reported in various cities of the interior, although no one has been injured.

This morning fire has been reported in Pochomil, a beach resort. No details of the origin have been provided.

FSLN Battle Report

PA161924Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1907 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 16 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--In a combat bulletin delivered to Honduran communications media, the Nicaraguan Sandinist guerrillas claim to have killed a U.S. soldier in combat. The Sandinists claim in their communique that 'fighting with an antiguerrilla patrol took place on Thursday, 9 February, in the mountains of Nueva Segovia, 2 hours from El Rosario estate."

The Sandinists say that the patrol was led by a tall, husky white man who spoke English and "was wearing a U.S. Army uniform, as were two others who were marching in the vanguard of the patrol." The Sandinists say that in the fighting another U.S. citizen was injured and the third fled when the troops were dispersed due to intense fire from the guerrillas.

The combat bulletin is signed by the general staff of the "Carlos Fonseca Amador" northern front, which stated that it had been observing the patrol for several hours and that there were three men in it who spoke English, wore U.S. uniforms and looked like foreigners.

The combat bulletin states that in the fighting the communications code used by the Nicaraguan National Guard was captured as well as a list of names of soldiers and officers, persons who collaborate with the guard and persons arrested or to be arrested for cooperating with the guerrillas.

In addition, the rebels analyzed the strike which was staged for several days by private enterprise and a sector of the Nicaraguan people in demand of President Anastasio Somoza's resignation and justice in the investigation of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's murder. "The failure [of the strike]," the Sandinists say, "demonstrates that Somoza will fall only by force of arms and that the guard is not a national guard, but a Somozist guard which we must divide militarily and politically."

The guerrillas ask for international solidarity to end the arms buildup of the Nicaraguan regime. They call on the American people "to unmask the hypocritical human rights policy of President Jimmy Carter, who supports the Nicaraguan regime, as is proved by the recent loan of $20 million to the Nicaraguan Government."

Arson Attacks Reported

PA160007Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1908 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 15 Feb (AFP)--Gasoline bombs exploded yesterday in several places in Managua, causing considerable damage to a textile firm and a supermarket, newspaper circles reported here today. The two stores affected had refused to close during the general strike against the Somoza administration.

On the other hand, the governing Nationalist Liberal Party announced that a massive demonstration in support of President Somoza would be held on 26 February. An opposition newapeper published in Leon, 90 km northwest of Managua, EL CENTROAMERICANO, has commented that organizing a progovernment demonstration in the present climate of antigovernment agitation "might be a serious mistake."

Meanwhile, Judge Guillermo Rivas Cuadra has stated that he has started formal proceedings to obtain the extradition of Pedro Ramos Quiroz, a U.S. doctor of Cuban origin who lives in Miami and who has been named by the five murderers of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro as a person who paid to have the crime committed.

ELECTRICITY CUT OFF TO CATHOLIC RADIO STATION

PA162346Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1712 GMT 16 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 16 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan National Light and Power Enterprise (ENALUF) has cut off the electricity of Radio Catolica, which is owned by the Catholic Church.

The state-owned company said it had cut off electricity to the station's broadcasting plant south of Managua to collect a back debt of 12,600 cordobas ($1,800). However, Father Bismark Carballo, the station's director, said: "The station has no bills outstanding with ENALUF." The priest said he considered the power cutoff "retaliation" in connection with complaints made to him by radio and television chief Col Alberto Luna for playing protest or testimonial songs over the radio.

Colonel Luna said that in his opinion the Catholic station "is not fulfilling its evangelizing mission when it plays songs such 'Soldier Friend,' 'The Christ of Palacaguina,' or 'Give Me a Hand To Find Liberty.'"

Father Carballo defended his viewpoint, claiming that the music contributes to evangelization in keeping with the church's latest teachings. "From no point of view can that music be taken as a threat to established order," the director of the station, now off the air, said. He added that the case will be studied by Nicaragua's Catholic Church authorities today.

BRIEFS

COSTA RICAN CATTLE SALES--San Jose, Costa Rica, 11 Feb (AFP)--The Federation of Cattlemens Associations of Costa Rica announced today that Costa Rica will export 2,500 heifers to Surinam at an average price of $170 a head and 3,000 heifers to Haiti at an average price of $180 a head. The cattle will be shipped by air as soon as the necessary arrangements have been concluded with the airlines. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1652 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA]

GUATEMALAN EMBASSY IN BOLIVIA--The Guatemalan Government has opened its embassy in Bolivia, according to a decree issued through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Arturo Ponciano Samayoa, the Guatemalan ambassador to Bolivia, has already left for La Paz. Until recently, the Guatemalan ambassador to Peru had served as ambassador to Bolivia. [Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 6 Feb 78 p 5 PA]

MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO GUATEMALA--Guatemala City, 10 Feb (LATIN)--Gen Rafael Macedo Figueroa, the new Mexican ambassador to Guatemala, today presented his credentials to President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0351 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA]

ALMEIDA TOURS GRANMA PROVINCE PROJECTS

FL161220Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, has made an extensive tour of industrial and social construction projects and economic development plans of Granma Province. Accompanying Almeida were Emilio Loo, first secretary of the party in Granma Province, and Rene de los Santos, both members of the PCC Central Committee.

At the Vegueitas Cuber enterprise of Yara municipality, the visitors visited a plantation of the first 43 caballerias growing Japanese islands taro, which produces great yields. They also visited the Jose Luis Blacende enterprise of irrigation systems through aspersion, which was dedicated in July 1977 by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. The tour ended at the installations of the Ceiba Hueca bulk sugar terminal in Campechuela municipality, where the construction workers reaffirmed their decision to complete the terminal this year.

EDUCATION MINISTER CHAIRS CIEGO DE AVILA MEETING

FL161252Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Feb 78 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee member and Education Minister Jose Ramon Fernandez has chaired a meeting in Ciego de Avila to examine that province's student promotion during the first 6 months of the current school term. Also seated at the presiding table were provincial party Executive Bureau members Miguel Aguilar (Horros), president of the Provincial People's Government Assembly, and Dagoberto Dominguez.

The meeting was attended by representatives of all educational institutions.

PARAGUAYAN DELEGATION VISITS ICAP, CASA DE LAS AMERICAS

FL161854Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Paraguayan Communist Party delegation headed by General Secretary Antonio Maidana has visited the Cuban Institute for Friendship with Peoples--ICAP--headquarters. They were received by ICAP First Vice President Wilfredo Rodriguez and ICAP Latin America Department Director Luis M. Morejon.

Earlier, the visitors visited Casa de las Americas, where they met with its vice president, Mariano Rodriguez, and the magazine CASA's chief, Roberto Fernandez Retamar, along with other members of the organization's managing directorate.

Delegation in Cienfuegos

FL162230Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2202 GMT 16 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Paraguayan Communist Party chief Antonio Maidana, along with Alfredo Alcorta, Julio Rojas and Rogelio Gonzalez, representative of that party in Cuba, today arrived in the city of Cienfuegos, in the province of the same name. They were received at Jaime Gonzalez airport by Humberto Miguel Fernandez, Cienfuegos Province party first secretary, and other members of the province's party bureau, along with leaders from the Union of Young Communist and Mass Organizations. Four members of the Jose Marti Pioneer Organization also welcomed the distinguished visitors. During their stay in Cienfuegos, Paraguayan Communist Party Antonio Maidana and his entourage will make an extensive tour of the historical and tourist sites in addition to meeting with the PCC Provincial Bureau.

JAMAICA

MEETING ON WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT ENDS

FL161340Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The first meeting of the governing body of the regional conference on women's integration into Latin American economic and social development has concluded in Jamaica. The 2-day meeting was chaired by Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women.

The plenary session agreed to convey to all governments in the region and all participating organizations the concern of the participants for the delay in putting into practice the world and regional plan of action for the integration of women.

In her closing remarks, Vilma Espin referred to the harmony and identity of views which characterized the participating representatives. She stressed there is great interest to make the world plan of action become a reality as a contribution to the attainment of all the rights that our continent's women seek.

HOUSING MINISTER URGES YOUTHS TO EMULATE CUBANS

FL161515Y Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Feb 78 p 7 FL

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica--Housing Minister Anthony Spalding has urged 100 Jamaicans who left here this week for a year's training in Cuba to study diligently, acquiring not only skills of the construction industry, but the discipline and honesty of the Cuban people. Speaking to the group at the National Arena shortly before their departure, Mr. Spalding told the young men that, in accepting the scholarships, they were on the way to building a sound future for themselves and their country. The group will spend one year in Cuba, studying masonry, carpentry, plumbing, electrical installation, steel erecting and other skills of the construction industry.

BANK OF JAMAICA GETS $10.5-MILLION LINE OF CREDIT

FL161502Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Feb 78 p 1 FL

[Text] An agreement has been reached between the Bank of Jamaica and the London confirming house of Gillespie Brothers and Company Limited for a $10.5 million line of credit. A release from the Bank of Jamaica yesterday said that this facility will enable manufacturers and exporters to purchase raw materials and other items necessary for the present export drive on a worldwide basis. The release said that it will also enable manufacturers to purchase capital goods and other importers to obtain essential supplies as approved by the trade administrator.

The credit facility is being administered by the Jamaica Export Credit Corporation and, according to the release, buyers who wish to avail themselves of the facility should obtain the licenses from the trade administrator and then apply through their commercial banks.

Representatives from Gillespie Brothers were in Jamaica last week, the GLEANER has learned, to negotiate with the Bank of Jamaica for the $5 million line of credit which, with the recent devaluation of the Jamaican dollar, works out to approximately $10.5 million. Gillespie Brothers has had a long link with the Jamaican Government and business community.

BURNHAM SAYS ARMCHAIR EXPERTS CANNOT RUN COUNTRY

FL161510Y Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Feb 78 pp 1, 16 FL

[Text] Prime Minister Forbes Burnham yesterday observed that there were "too many strawbosses in our community who know everything from outside and who from the comfort of an armchair want to run Guyana." Cde. Burnham was addressing 26 officer cadets (including two women) of the Guyana Defence Force, the National Service and the People's Militia at a commissioning parade on Camp Ayanganna Drill Square. Urging them not to be strawbosses or armchair experts, the prime minister told the cadets: "You will assist in running Guyana, not from the armchair but from in the field."

He exhorted the cadets to live up to the high expectations expected and informed them that the disciplined service was "not a place for jobs." "This is a place where you pursue a vocation, a calling, a place that requires intelligence and commitment, and it is not too late if there are any among you that fail to appreciate this, to return your commission," he declared.

Cde. Burnham told the cadets that theirs was a career that would be tough and they were expected to be competent soldiers. "You are expected to be capable of defending the country, but you must defend it not only against marauders, or would-be marauders across our borders, but against indiscipline, irresponsibility and subversion in every form," he stated. But he advised that at the same time, the cadets must set an example in many fields, "for people look at you and judge the rest of the army by the conduct and attitude of the worst," Cde. Burnham explained.

He told the cadets that they were soldiers but also citizens and consequently, in the three branches they represented, they would be expected to take part in community efforts. "You are expected, by the way you conduct yourself, to encourage others to be self-sufficient, to contribute to agricultural production not only by giving orders, but by doing it yourself and setting the example," the prime minister said.

Cde. Burnham had earlier witnessed an impressive display of precision marching by the cadets, supported by the rest of the parade soldiers drawn from the army, to music by the army band under Captain C.S. Ault, director of music. He had also taken the salute at a march past of the parade which was followed by a one-minute silence to the memory of Captain Joseph Henry who died by accident at the age of 25 on December 22, last year.

Awards were presented by the prime minister to Under Officer Cadet Wilfred Branche (the Sword of Honour) for being the best all-round cadet on the course, to Cadet Sergeant R. Rambarran and (military knowledge prizes) to Officer Cadets J. Hobaichan and J. Gomes.

Standing on the sundrenched dais on the parade square, as thousands of members from the disciplined services and an interested public looked on the prime minister congratulated the cadets and noted that there were two women graduating with the men. He said he expected that they went through the same rigours as the men, but that even before international women's year he had always insisted that women in the army be as equally proficient as the men. He stated the equality women were fighting for meant, in his book, equal responsibility, equal levels of efficiency and proficiency.

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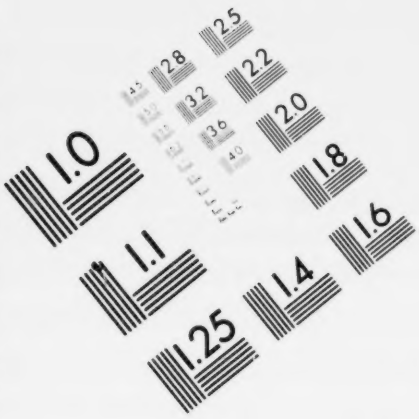

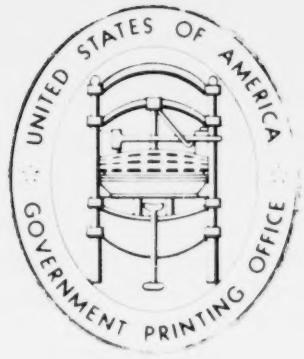

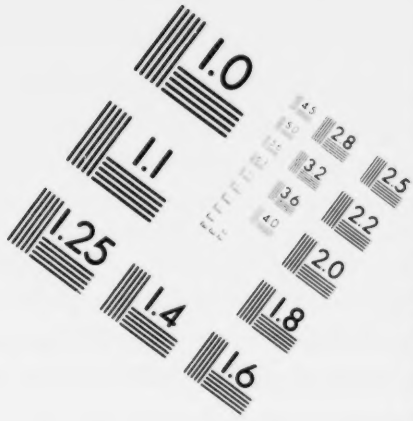

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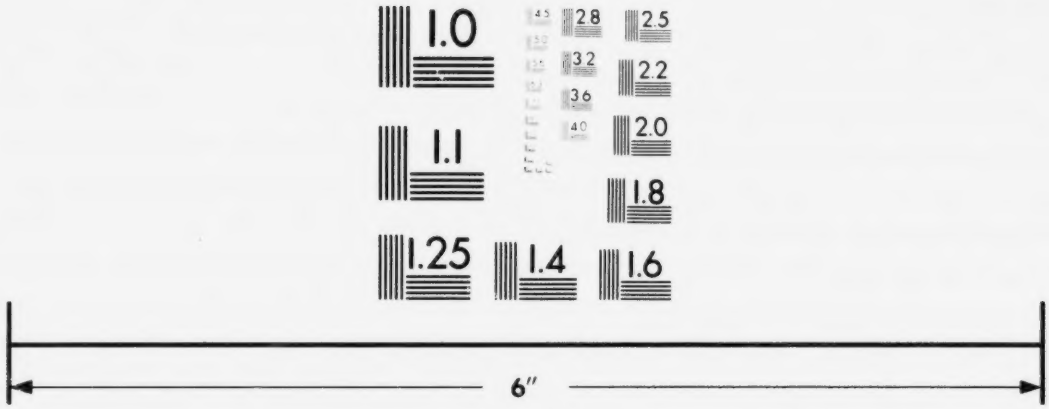

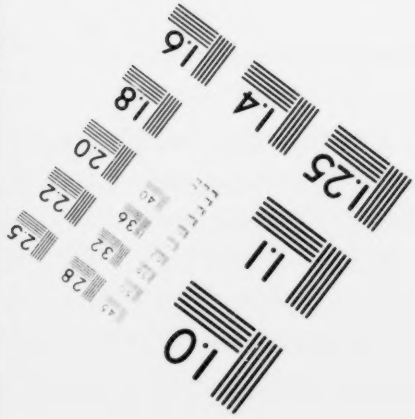

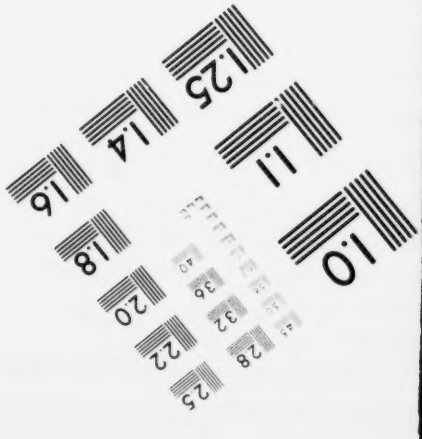

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